



SENATE COMMITTEE SERVICES

2005 Interim Work Plan and Meeting Schedule

*Note: Meeting dates and times are revised as information becomes available at
<http://www1.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/Default.htm>*

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Senate Agriculture & Rural Economic Development Committee

Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7411

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
July 12	Tour	Skagit & Whatcom County	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WSU agricultural research station at Mount Vernon. 2. Methane digester - Lynden. 3. Dairy farm.
September 6-7	Full Committee Tour	Yakima Valley	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hop harvesting technology and pilot projects. 2. Asparagus automation and mechanization initiative. 3. Wine-grape industry update. 4. Tour of WSU Agricultural Research Station at Prosser.
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update on weights and measures program -- Department of Agriculture. 2. Briefing on U.S. Supreme Court decision -- Wine sales to out of state customers.
October	Joint with International Trade & Economic Development & the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Trade Policy TBA	Ellensburg	Effect of international trade agreements on agriculture.
December Legislative Assembly	Full Committee TBA	Olympia	TBA

Senate Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education Committee

Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7415

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
September Committee Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	TBA		
December Committee Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	TBA		
Other Meetings:			
TBA	Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Governance	TBA	Review the current statutory duties of the State Board of Education in order to determine which duties should be retained, repealed, or transferred.
	TBA		
TBA	Washington Learns Committee	TBA	Study the finance of early learning, K-12, and higher education in the state.
	TBA		
TBA	Joint Select Committee on Secondary Education	TBA	Examine instructional, design, and organizational models for middle schools and high schools.
	TBA		

Senate Financial Institutions, Housing & Consumer Protection Committee

Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7408

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
Fall 2005	Full Committee	Olympia	Reviewing the Homeowners' Association Act to evaluate concerns and determine needed revisions.
	Public Hearing/Work Session		
September Committee Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	TBA		
December Committee Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	TBA		

Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee

Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7432

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
September Committee Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	TBA		
December Committee Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	TBA		

Other Meetings:

TBA	Joint Select Task Force on Permitting Processes	TBA	Evaluate local development regulations of selected jurisdictions in buildable lands counties.
	Work Session		
September Committee Assembly	Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs	TBA	TBA
	TBA		
December Committee Assembly	Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs	TBA	TBA
	TBA		

Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7456

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	TBA		
December Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	TBA		
Other Meetings:			
TBA	Developmental Disabilities Residential Services Advisory Council	TBA	TBA
	TBA		
TBA	Caring for Washington Individuals with Autism Task Force	TBA	TBA
	TBA		
TBA	Certificate of Need Task Force	TBA	TBA
	TBA		
TBA	Joint Select Committee on Public Health Financing	TBA	TBA
	TBA		
TBA	Long-Term Care Financing and Chronic Care Management Task Force	TBA	TBA
	TBA		
05/17/05 9:00 am	Joint Select Committee on Health Disparities	SHR 4 Olympia	1. Overview by select commissions. 2. Creating a culturally competent health care workforce through training opportunities for existing health care professionals.
	Work Session		3. Creating a culturally competent health care workforce through training new health care professionals.

Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee

Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7456

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
06/21/05 1:30 pm	Joint Select Committee on Health Disparities Work Session	HHR B Olympia	Early childhood development.
07/12/05 10:00 am	Task Force on Noneconomic Damages TBA	Seattle	TBA
07/19/05 9:00 am	Joint Select Committee on Health Disparities Work Session	HHR E Olympia	Effect of reductions in health care expenditures.
08/09/05 1:30 pm	Joint Select Committee on Health Disparities Work Session	TBA	Discuss recommendations for committee report.

Senate Human Services & Corrections Committee

Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7414

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
TBA	Kinship Care Oversight Committee Work Session	TBA	SHB 1280 created a task force to provide oversight on implementation of kinship recommendations made to DSHS.
September Committee Assembly	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	TBA
December Committee Assembly	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	TBA
Other Meetings:			
TBA Monthly meetings	Task Force on Sex Offender Management Work Session	TBA	SHB 1147 created a task force on a wide variety of issues related to managing sex offenders in the community.
TBA 3-5 meetings	Joint Legislative & Executive Task Force on Mental Health Services & Financing Work Session	TBA	E2SHB 1290 extended the Joint Legislative and Executive Task Force on Mental Health Funding and Services through June of 2007 and expanded its authority to monitor the implementation of the procurement process for the regional support networks.
TBA 4-6 meetings	Joint Task Force on Criminal Background Check Processes Work Session	TBA	SHB 1681 extended the Joint Task Force on Criminal Background Check Processes to study and make recommendations on criminal background check policy.
TBA 4-6 meetings	Joint Task Force on Child Safety for Children in Child Protective Services or Child Welfare Services Work Session	TBA	SHB 2156 created a task force on child safety for children in child protective services or child welfare services.
TBA 4-6 meetings	Task Force on the Administration and Delivery of Services to Children & Families Work Session	TBA	ESSB 5872 created a task force on the administrative organization, structure, and delivery of services to children and families.

Senate International Trade & Economic Development Committee

Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7409

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
Late July or Early August	Full Committee	TBA	Port tour.
	TBA		
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	TBA		
09/27/05 TBA	Full Committee	Seattle	Port of Seattle tour.
	Tour		
October	Joint meeting with Senate Agricultural & Rural Economic Development and Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Trade Policy	Ellensburg	Effect of international trade agreements on agriculture.
	TBA		
December Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	TBA		

Other Meetings:

August NCSL	Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Trade Policy	Seattle	Host NCSL Committee on Economic Development, Trade, and Cultural Affairs.
	TBA		

Senate Judiciary Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7455

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
September Committee Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	Work Session		
December Committee Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	Work Session		
Other Meetings:			
TBA 3-5 meetings	Projectile Stun Gun Study Committee	TBA	SHB 1934 created the projectile stun gun study committee to review the sale and use of projectile stun guns within Washington state. The committee will evaluate public safety issues created by projectile stun guns and make recommendations regarding whether they should be regulated and, if so, how.
	Work Session		

Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee

Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7426

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
TBA	Full Committee Tour and Briefing	Everett	Briefing on Boeing 787 project, tour of Everett plant and 787 mock-up.
TBA	Full Committee Tour and Briefing	Seattle	Briefing on and tour of the Biomedical and Biotechnology industry and facilities in Washington.
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	TBA
November	Full Committee Work Session	Leavenworth	Agricultural issues - to coincide with the Farm Bureau's Labor Conference.
December Legislative Assembly	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	TBA

Other Meetings:

TBA	Joint Legislative Task Force on State Contracts Performed in Whole or in Part, Outside the United States TBA	TBA	TBA
06/29/05 TBA	Joint Legislative Task Force on Unemployment Insurance Benefit Equity Work Session	Olympia	TBA
07/27/05 TBA	Joint Legislative Task Force on Unemployment Insurance Benefit Equity Work Session	TBA	TBA

Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee

Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7426

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
09/14/05 TBA	Joint Legislative Task Force on Unemployment Insurance Benefit Equity Public Hearing/Work Session	Olympia	TBA
10/05/05 TBA	Joint Legislative Task Force on Unemployment Insurance Benefit Equity Public Hearing/Work Session	TBA	TBA
10/26/05 TBA	Joint Legislative Task Force on Unemployment Insurance Benefit Equity Work Session	Olympia	TBA
11/16/05 TBA	Joint Legislative Task Force on Unemployment Insurance Benefit Equity Work Session	TBA	Review draft recommendations.
11/30/05 TBA	Joint Legislative Task Force on Unemployment Insurance Benefit Equity Public Hearing/Work Session	Olympia	Review draft recommendations.
12/14/05 TBA	Joint Legislative Task Force on Unemployment Insurance Benefit Equity Public Hearing/Work Session	Olympia	Review and /or approve draft report to the legislature.

Senate Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7419

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	TBA		
October	Full Committee	Seattle	TBA
	TBA		
December Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	TBA		

Senate Transportation Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7300

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
06/13/05	Full Committee	Seattle - Cle Elum	Tour the I-90 west - east connection between the Port of Seattle and the I-90 overpass.
All Day	Tour		
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	TBA		
December Legislative Assembly	Full Committee	Olympia	TBA
	TBA		
Other Meetings:			
TBA	Regional Transportation Investment District Committee	TBA	TBA
	TBA		
TBA	Joint Transportation Committee	TBA	Motor Vehicle Excise Tax (MVET) depreciation schedule, passenger-only ferries, transportation finance, other issues as determined by Executive Committee of Joint Transportation Committee.
	TBA		

Senate Water, Energy & Environment Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7406

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
Fall 2005	Full Committee Tour	Portland, Oregon	Bonneville Power Administration.
August 3 days	Full Committee Tour	Southeastern Washington	To include the nuclear plant and Yakima River and Columbia/Snake River irrigation projects.
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee Public Hearing/Work Session	Olympia	1. Update on the committee's interim project regarding regulatory parity for telecommunications companies. 2. Work session on promoting alternative energy sources by investor-owned utilities.
October 3-5 2005	Full Committee Tours	Okanogan, Ferry, and Pend Oreille Counties	Buckhorn Mountain proposed gold mine; Metaline Falls zinc mine; Boundary dam undergoing FERC relicensing; Matney dam - small scale water storage.
December Legislative Assembly	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	1. Update on status of Department of Ecology's rules implementing new motor vehicle emission standards enacted in ESHB 1397 (2005) and the State of Oregon's related activities. 2. Update on creation of the Oil Spill Advisory Council – ESSB 5432 (2005).
Other Meetings:			
TBA Est. 5 Meetings	Task Force to Study Off-road Vehicle Noise Management Work Sessions Possible Tour	TBA	Addressing issues related to ORV noise (SSB 5089).
TBA 4 meetings	Joint Legislative Committee on Water Supply During Drought Work Sessions Possible tour	TBA (at least one in Eastern Washington)	Addressing water supply issues during droughts (HB 2166).
August 3 days	Columbia River Task Force Public Workshop	Wenatchee Moses Lake Colville	Public workshops on the management of the Columbia River.
September 3 days	Columbia River Task Force Public Workshop	Tri-Cities, Ilwaco and Seattle	Public workshops on the management of the Columbia River.

Senate Water, Energy & Environment Committee
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7406

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
September	Legislative Council on River Governance	Portland, Oregon	Multi-state discussions on the Columbia River.
	Work Session		
09/21/05 10:00 am	Joint Committee on Energy Supply & Conservation	HHR E Olympia	Energy supply and conservation issues.
	Work Session		

Senate Ways & Means Committee Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2005

For more information please contact the committee at (360) 786-7715

DATE	MEETING TYPE	LOCATION	SUBJECT
TBA	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	Managing medical cost increases.
06/29/05 Morning	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	Budget/fiscal issues.
September Legislative Assembly	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	Budget/fiscal issues.
December Legislative Assembly	Full Committee Work Session	Olympia	Budget/fiscal issues.
Other Meetings:			
TBA	Washington Learns Committee TBA	TBA	Study the finance of early learning, K-12, and higher education in the state.

Senate Agriculture & Rural Economic Development Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Project: Agricultural Research and Technology Initiatives

Completion: December 2005

Staff: Bob Lee

Reference: ESB 6121

Description: The committee will tour two major university agricultural research stations, one in western Washington and one in eastern Washington, to review existing research projects and look at how research missions are changing. The committee will also conduct on-site visits to monitor the progress and future direction of asparagus automation and mechanization and hop harvesting technology initiatives.

Project: Functions and Organizational Structure of Commodity Commissions

Completion: December 2005

Staff: Bob Lee/Sam Thompson

Reference: SSB 5369 and SHB 1608

Description: In recent years, litigation has raised constitutional issues about the structures that commodity commissions need to have to perform specific functions, including marketing. Rulings by various federal circuit courts have not led to consistent criteria. Information will be gathered concerning significant court rulings, including the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling (Johanns v. Livestock Marketing Association--the "Beef Checkoff" decision), to help provide guidance on at least some aspects of current issues.

Project: Regulation of Confined Animal Feeding Operations

Completion: December 2005

Staff: Bob Lee

Reference: SSB 5602 and SHB 1615

Description: In 2003, the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) adopted changes to the federal water quality regulations to prevent discharges from confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs). Washington State has received delegation of the federal program, and also has state water quality laws that apply to CAFOs.

In 2003, the administration of the Dairy Nutrient Management Act was transferred from the Department of Agriculture from the Department of Ecology. This legislation also formed a multi-interest committee to assist in the development of legislation to transfer the remaining CAFOs to the Department of Agriculture.

Legislation was considered during the 2005 session to complete the transfer and to comply with new federal requirements. However, a federal circuit court decision in late February 2005, invalidated several key provisions of the 2003 federal rules. The mid-process changes in the federal requirements raised issues that were not fully resolved as the state legislation moved through the process. The result was only a small portion of the legislation was enacted. The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Ecology again have been directed to work with the multi-interest committee to develop legislation to complete the program's transfer and compliance with federal regulations.

This federal rule making process, and the multi-interest advisory committee will be monitored.

Senate Agriculture & Rural Economic Development Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Project: **Shipment of Wine to Out of State Purchases**

Completion

Staff: Sam Thompson/Bob Lee

Description: Since the mid-1970's, there has been a significant increase in both the number of acres in wine-grape production and the number of wineries in Washington State. This increase has improved the economic viability of agricultural areas and assisted in the economic development of rural areas.

As Washington has emerged as a national leader in the production of premium wine-grapes and of wines, consumers in other states have increased interest in ordering premium wines from Washington. Some states, including Washington, have had laws that provide for reciprocity regarding shipment of wines between the states. Other states had placed additional restrictions on wine produced outside their state as compared to wine produced within their state. This spring, the United State Supreme Court rendered a long anticipated decision regarding unequal impediments imposed by some states. A committee tour, and a possible interim meeting may be held to provide updated information to legislators from the state wine industry and the State Liquor Control Board. Actions taken in response to this court decision by other major wine producing states, such as California, will be monitored.

Senate Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Project: Addressing Issues of Equity and Culture

Completion December 1, 2005

Staff: Ingrid Mungia

Description: There were a number of bills before the education committees over the past few sessions addressing issues of equity and culture in school climate, curriculum and assessment. The committee will explore current policies and practices in this state and across the nation related to increasing cultural competence of students and educators, attracting and retaining a diverse teacher and administrator workforce, and closing the achievement gap between different ethnic groups. Final product: Report.

Project: Issues in Special Education

Completion December 1, 2005

Staff: Ingrid Mungia/Heather Lewis-Lechner

Description: During the 2005 legislative session, dyslexia and autism programs and research relating to students and teachers in the classroom received attention, including issues specific to the instruction and assessment of students with dyslexia. Private and public entities across the country have developed successful models addressing different learning styles. The committee will study available models and identify examples of successful programs. Additionally, numerous states and education organizations have programs using some form of ombudsman services. The committee will research and identify examples of successful ombudsman programs and how they can be adapted to use in special education programs. Final product: Report.

Project: Issues Unique to Large, Urban School Districts

Completion January 2006

Staff: Brian Jeffries

Description: The committee recognizes that large, urban school districts have issues, challenges and procedures that are unique. The committee will study efforts from other state entities that are designed to improve and support the performance of these districts given their unique characteristics. Final product: Report.

Project: Student Transitions - Preschool through Higher Education

Completion December 1, 2005

Staff: Brian Jeffries/Heather Lewis-Lechner/Ingrid Mungia

Description: The committee explored throughout the past session issues pertaining to the transition of students from preschool into K-12 education into higher education. The committee will conduct a review of policies and governance in support of students in their transitions among our articulated education system. Particularly, the committee will study and identify successful strategies and models for getting information to high school students and their families regarding preparation for college and careers. The committee will study the impact and benefit of dual enrollment programs, strategies being utilized statewide to get students ready for college-level work and reducing remediation, and current and future practices to increase the numbers of students attaining baccalaureate degrees in our state. Final Product: Report.

Senate Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Project: Update on School Safety Laws

Completion December 1, 2005

Staff: Heather Lewis-Lechner

Description: Over the past few sessions a number of laws have been passed to improve the safety of students and staff in Washington public schools including: school mapping, anti-bullying legislation, creation and funding of the school safety center, requiring the creation of comprehensive safe school plans, funding the development of an internet safety pamphlet, and requiring notification policies regarding threats of violence at schools. The committee will review the implementation of these laws and policies and whether additional measures or changes are needed. The committee will conduct a review of the current policies and examine any recommendations that stakeholders may have for changes to the current policies. Final product: Report.

Other Projects:

Project: Joint Select Committee on Secondary Education

Completion January 15, 2006

Staff: Brian Jeffries

Reference: HCR 4408

Description: A joint select committee will examine instructional, design, and organizational models for middle schools and high schools and includes eight legislators – two from each caucus of the Senate and House. The joint select committee will be staffed by Senate and House committee staff. The joint select committee will report its findings and recommendations to the Senate and House education committees by January 15, 2006.

Project: Joint Subcommittee on K-12 Governance

Completion December 15, 2005

Staff: Brian Jeffries/Heather Lewis-Lechner/Ingrid Mungia

Reference: ESSB 5732

Description: A joint subcommittee of the Senate Early Learning, K-12, and Higher Education Committee and House Education Committee will review the current statutory duties of the State Board of Education, except responsibilities for certification, to determine which duties should be retained, repealed or transferred to another agency. Recommendations of the subcommittee will be reported to the full committees by December 15, 2005.

Senate Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Project: **Washington Learns Committee**

Completion November 15, 2006

Staff: Bryon Moore/Richard
Ramsey/Brian Jeffries/Heather
Lewis-Lechner/Irgrid Mungia

Reference: E2SSB 5441

Description: A Comprehensive Education Finance Study Steering Committee, includes four legislators – one from each caucus of the Senate and House; three advisory committees, each one including four individuals appointed by the caucuses in the Senate and House, to study the finance of early learning, K-12, and higher education in the state. Committee staff will provide policy support to the study. The steering committee will report to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the legislature by November 15, 2005, and June 16, 2006, with the final report due by November 15, 2006.

Senate Financial Institutions, Housing & Consumer Protection Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Project: Consumer Protection, Financial Protection and the Internet

Completion: December 2005

Staff: Joanne Conrad

Description: Washington State is one of the top ten states for identity theft and related cyber crimes. Staff will research and prepare a major written study on issues regarding consumer protection and privacy of financial information. Study will include a wide range of related issues:

- protection of personal financial information from identity theft crimes;
- internet security, including e-commerce transactional security;
- medical record security;
- financial institution security breach protection;
- data mining and database access issues;
- credit report and credit card protection;
- CLUE report reliability and use;
- personal privacy of information at home and in the workplace; and
- protection of children in cyberspace.

Project will include original research, international and multistate policy review, contacts with law enforcement, e-commerce, financial institutions and interested parties.

Results will include an Executive Summary with legislative options for 2006 session.

Project: Credit Freeze: An In-depth Study

Completion: December 2005

Staff: Joanne Conrad

Reference: ESB 5418

Description: California recently enacted legislation giving consumers the right to freeze access to their credit history. A few other states have passed similar laws. In 2005, Washington State passed Engrossed Senate Bill 5418, an attempt to enable consumers to freeze their credit reports.

These laws are new enough that there has not been a lot of substantive analysis of their effectiveness in preventing identity crimes, or the uptake, benefits and burdens of utilizing and enforcing credit freeze acts.

Staff will obtain current data on the utilization, costs and benefits of consumer credit freeze laws.

Project will include possible legislation for 2006 session.

Project: Legislators' Guide to Housing Issues

Completion: December 2005

Staff: Jennifer Arnold

Description: Develop and compile resource material, designed for legislators, which provides a comprehensive overview of all housing issues, including policy analysis, as well as contact information for relevant organizations. The final document will include topic areas such as: homelessness, affordable housing, landlord-tenant issues, homeowners' associations, condominiums, mortgages, and mobile/manufactured housing communities.

Senate Financial Institutions, Housing & Consumer Protection Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Project: **Reviewing the Homeowners' Association Act**

Completion December 2005

Staff: Jennifer Arnold

Description: Hold a work session/public hearing to determine concerns and evaluate necessary changes to the Act. Conduct a comprehensive review of existing law and draft proposed legislation revising the Act based upon the public hearing and interim research.

Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Project: **Alternative Public Works Contracting Procedures**

Completion: August 31, 2005 **Staff:** Diane Smith/Mac Nicholson

Reference: SB 5891/HB 1384

Description: Alternative public works contracting procedures have been available since 1994 for large contracts under limited circumstances. The statutory enlargement of the number and type of public bodies authorized to use these methodologies was the subject of legislation this session. Public school districts and public hospital districts have limited use of these alternatives, upon approval by their respective project review boards.

A new board, the Capital Projects Review Board, is established by legislation this year. Its charge is to develop and recommend to the legislature: (1) criteria that may be used to determine effective and feasible use of alternative contracting procedures; (2) qualification standards for general contractors bidding on alternative public works projects; and (3) policies to further enhance the quality, efficiency, and accountability of capital construction projects through the use of traditional and alternative delivery methods and recommendations on expansion, continuation, elimination, or modification of alternative public works contracting methods. The board shall also evaluate future use of other alternative contracting procedures, including competitive negotiation contracts.

The General Contractor/Construction Manager (GC/CM) alternative contracting procedure is under review by JLARC, with a final report due this summer.

Staff will review and summarize the relevant characteristics of competitive negotiation and the alternative public works contracting procedures currently used. The target use of the resulting paper is for reference during site visits this interim to various public works projects.

Project: **Attorney-client privilege white paper.**

Completion: August 31, 2005 **Staff:** Mac Nicholson/Diane Smith

Reference: SB 5735

Description: Examine the nature of the attorney-client privilege as it applies to government lawyers who advise government "clients." There is a common law privilege, applicable in the private sector, usually justified by society's need to foster full disclosure between client and attorney. This is usually seen as necessary in order for meaningful representation. The fact that both attorneys and their clients are paid by the taxpayer in the government sector gives rise to the question of the appropriate extent of the privilege in the government sector. Any writings that are privileged are not available for public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act.

A white paper will be prepared that explores these issues. Legislation may be drafted.

Part of Senate Bill 5735, included a treatment of the attorney-client privilege for purposes of the public records act, Chapter 42.17 RCW. This part was amended out of the bill during the legislative process. The balance of the bill was signed by the governor.

Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee

Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Project: Chapter 42.17 Re-write

Completion: December 31, 2005

Staff: Diane Smith/Mac Nicholson

Reference: SB 5034/HB 1133

Description: Staff will review and rewrite Chapter 42.17 RCW for technical clarification. No substantive changes will be proposed. The chapter is cluttered and disordered due, in part, to its inception and later amendment by initiative. Furthermore, the topic of campaign finance disclosure has been revamped at the federal level and state legislation followed suit this session.

Project: Contract provisions for notice in Public Works Contracts

Completion: August 31, 2005

Staff: Mac Nicholson/Diane Smith

Reference: SB 5936

Description: Two recent legal cases have placed in issue the degree of compliance necessary to fulfill the notice requirements in public works contracts. A memorandum will address the legal and factual contexts of these cases. It will include a discussion of potential remedies at law and in equity. Legislation may be prepared.

Project: Election Clean-up

Completion: December 31, 2005

Staff: Mac Nicholson/Diane Smith

Reference: SB 5499/SB 5219/SB 5395

Description: In consideration of the various legal challenges to both the election results and the election statutes, staff will analyze the arguments and prepare any legislation needed to address remaining problems.

Project: Emergency Management

Completion:

Staff: Diane Smith/Mac Nicholson

Description: Emergency Management in Washington is compartmentalized both geographically and by function by the state agencies having statutory responsibility for various aspects thereof. Examples are the Washington State Patrol, Department of Natural Resources, the Military Department and the local general and special purpose governments. These jurisdictions often partially or wholly overlap by several fold. Their integration and standardization is the subject of staff review with a report and legislation expected to result.

Project: Public Financing of Political Campaigns

Completion: December 31, 2005

Staff: Diane Smith/Mac Nicholson

Description: This issue has been under legislative review for several sessions and interims. It concerns the goal of removing special interest influence from policy decision-making. The hypothesis is that public financing, rather than special interest financing, of political campaigns will free politicians from the constant need to raise money and the indebtedness perhaps felt and perceived that arises from these activities. The potential funding sources will be investigated. Legislation will result.

Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Project: The Growth Management Act

Completion: December 2005

Staff: Genevieve Pisarski/Diane Smith

Reference: SHB 1169/ESHB 2171/ESHB 2194/EHB 2219/EHB 2241/SB 5152/SB 5312/SB 5546/SB 5548/SB 5670/SB 5671/SB 5690/SB 5739/SB 5896/ESSB 5907/SB 5912/SSB 5923/SB 5930/SB 5933/SB 5945/SB 5954/SSB 6030

Description: The Committee will examine significant current issues and concerns arising from implementation of the Growth Management Act and identified in petitions to the Growth Management Hearings Boards, court cases, and legislative proposals. These issues and concerns include the review and revision of comprehensive plans and development regulations, inclusion of best available science in critical areas ordinances, adoption of density requirements within urban growth areas, designation and allowed uses of agricultural resource lands, and any additional topics the Committee may identify.

Project: Veteran's Issues

Completion: December 31, 2005

Staff: Diane Smith/Genevieve Pisarski

Reference: SB 5393/HB 1189

Description: The Veterans' Relief Act received its first major review since it was enacted by the territorial legislature. Staff will evaluate selected counties' veterans' programs to determine whether the new statutory organization and procedures are having the expected results in better serving the veteran population. Legislation will result as indicated.

Project: Washington State Quality Award (WSQA)

Completion: August 31, 2005

Staff: Diane Smith

Reference: HB 1064/HB 1970

Description: The 2005 Legislature passed HB 1970 which, among other things, requires state agencies to apply for the Washington State Quality Award or undergo a similar assessment every three years. In conjunction with committee members, staff will thoroughly examine the criteria used in the Malcolm Baldrige Award and the Washington State Quality Award. Consideration will be given to the potential benefits of having entities of the Senate, and specifically the State Government Operations and Elections Committee, apply for the Washington State Quality Award and undergo the required assessment. In addition, staff will summarize criteria and questions that committee members might use in examining state agencies' progress in implementing the performance criteria envisioned in the legislation.

Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Other Projects:

Project: **Joint Select Task Force on Permitting Processes**

Completion: January 2006

Staff: Genevieve Pisarski/Diane Smith

Reference: 2004 SSCR 8418/2005 SB 6036

Description: A Joint Select Legislative Task Force was created by 2004 Substitute Senate Concurrent Resolution 8418 to evaluate the local development regulations of selected jurisdictions in the "buildable lands" counties and to develop recommendations for a more simple, coordinated, and efficient local permit system. The Governor was invited to participate, and there is an advisory committee representing government and stakeholders. In 2004, the Task Force held work sessions and identified issues and concerns. In 2005, the Task Force will complete evaluation of local regulations and develop recommendations.

Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Project: Developmental Disabilities Residential Services Advisory Council

Completion: January 1, 2006

Staff: Sharon Swanson

Reference: ESSB 6090 (Sec. 129)

Description: This 13-member council includes two Senators, and is charged with studying residential services for persons with developmental disabilities. The study is to identify a preferred system of services and a plan to implement the system within four years. Recommendations are to be provided on the services that best address client needs in different regions of the state and on the preferred system.

Project: Measuring and Improving Performance in the Health Care Delivery System

Completion: December 2005

Staff: Jonathan Seib

Reference: SSB 5064, ESSB 6090
(Sec. 103, 213 (6)),
SHB 1512

Description: While the legislature has traditionally given substantial consideration to the issue of how to pay for medical care, it has devoted less attention to the quality and efficacy of the care being purchased. Recent legislation, however, has touched on ideas such as evidence-based medicine, pay-for-performance, value purchasing, consumer-driven care, and the use of information technology to improve health care delivery. The committee will monitor implementation of this legislation, and explore additional strategies to discourage unnecessary or inappropriate treatment and assure only the most cost-effective use of the state's limited health care dollars.

Other Projects:

Project: Caring for Washington Individuals with Autism Task Force

Completion: December 1, 2006

Staff: Stephanie Yurcisin

Reference: SB 5311

Description: This 14-member task force includes two Senators, and is charged with reviewing the available literature and consulting with experts to gain an understanding of the causes of autism and its incidence in Washington; assessing the availability of services currently provided for early screening, diagnosis, and treatment of autism; assessing the availability of services to assist families of individuals with autism; and reviewing the effectiveness of programs and services provided to individuals with autism and their families.

Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Project: Certificate of Need Task Force

Completion: November 1, 2006

Staff: Stephanie Yurcisin

Reference: E2SHB 1688

Description: Two Senators are among the 16 to be appointed to this task force, created to study and prepare recommendations related to improving and updating the certificate of need (CON) program. Specific issues to be addressed include: the scope of facilities, services and capital expenditures that should be subject to CON; the criteria for reviewing CON applications; the need for service and facility specific policies to guide CON decisions; the purpose of the CON program; the timeliness and consistency of CON decisions; and mechanisms to monitor commitments made by health care facilities.

Project: Joint Select Committee on Health Disparities

Completion: November 1, 2005

Staff: Sharon Swanson

Reference: SCR 8419 (2004)

Description: This committee consists of four Senators and four Representatives, and is charged with identifying opportunities for improving health care status and addressing health disparities among women and in communities of color. Specific issues to be addressed by the committee include early childhood education programs, culturally appropriate care, the health care workforce, and the disproportionate impact of any reductions in health care spending.

Project: Joint Select Committee on Public Health Financing

Completion: July 1, 2006

Staff: Jonathan Seib

Reference: EHCR 4410

Description: This committee consists of four Senators and four Representatives and is charged with reviewing all current and potential local, state, and federal funding sources and expenditures for public health services and recommend potential sources of future funding for public health services. The recommendation must include methods to ensure that such funding does not supplant existing federal, state, and local funds received by any element of the public health system.

Project: Long-Term Care Financing and Chronic Care Management Task Force

Completion: June 30, 2007

Staff: Sharon Swanson

Reference: 2SHB 1220

Description: Two Senators are among the eight to be appointed to this joint legislative and executive task force, which is to make recommendations regarding system capacity, efficient and effective public funding models, appropriate statutory and regulatory revisions, private payment options, and the long-term care needs of rural communities. The task force is also charged with recommending chronic care management and disability prevention interventions.

Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Project: **Medical Malpractice**

Completion: October 31, 2005

Staff: Stephanie Yurcisin

Reference: ESHB 2459 (Sec. 118) (2004), I-330, I-336

Description: The 2004 supplemental operating budget created a 14-member Task Force on Noneconomic Damages, which includes two Senators. The task force is to study and develop, for consideration by the legislature, a proposed plan for implementation of an advisory schedule of noneconomic damages in actions for injuries resulting from health care. In addition to assisting with this task force, staff will also be preparing a summary of the two initiatives which have qualified for the November ballot regarding malpractice reform and medical errors.

Senate Human Services & Corrections Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Project: Children's Administration Administrative Structure

Completion: December 1, 2005

Staff: Edith Rice

Reference: ESB 5872

Description: The Children's Administration and the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration each operate within a larger umbrella agency, the Department of Social and Health Services. Given the importance of the services provided to the public by these two administrations, a question has been raised about the efficacy of creating a separate stand-alone agency. A task force was formed to investigate and make recommendations concerning the administrative structure to best deliver these services to families and children. Task force membership will include legislators and representatives from the University of Washington, the Department of Social and Health Services, service providers, courts, and the Office of Family and Children's Ombudsman. A report to the legislature is due by December 1, 2005.

Project: Criminal Background Check Processes

Completion: December 31, 2005

Staff: Kiki Keizer

Reference: SHB 1681

Description: Substitute House Bill 1681 extended for an additional year the duration of the Joint Task Force on Criminal Background Check Processes (Background Check Task Force), which was created by the passage of Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2556 during the 2004 legislative session. A report to the legislature is due by December 31, 2005.

Project: Dependency and Child Safety

Completion: Ongoing

Staff: Edith Rice

Reference: SHB 2156

Description: Recent child fatalities created concerns about how best to protect dependent children, particularly those children returned to the care of parents, who may have abused or neglected them. A joint task force created in Substitute House Bill 2156 will look at the health, safety and welfare issues raised when a child is receiving services from Child Protective Services and/or Child Welfare Services. Task Force membership will include legislators, and representatives of the Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Administration, Office of Public Defense, Office of Family and Children's Ombudsman, law enforcement, Attorney General and court representatives. Reports are due to the legislature in December 2005 and September 2006.

Senate Human Services & Corrections Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Project: Mental Health Funding

Completion Ongoing

Staff: Fara Daun

Reference: E2SHB 1290

Description: Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1290 extended the Joint Legislative and Executive Task Force on Mental Health Funding and Services through 2007 and expanded authority to monitor the implementation of the procurement process for the regional support networks. The Task Force has legislative members, executive branch members and a representative from the counties. Reports are due to the legislature and the Governor January 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007.

Project: Sex Offender Management

Completion December 1, 2005

Staff: Fara Daun

Reference: SHB 1147

Description: Substitute House Bill 1147 created a task force composed of legislators, the heads of various executive agencies, and the media to work with the Partnership for Community Safety on a wide variety of issues related to managing sex offenders in the community. The task force must make recommendations to the legislature and Governor by December 1, 2005.

Other Projects:

Senate International Trade & Economic Development Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Project: State/Federal Trade Policy

Completion: December 2005

Staff: Jack Brummel

Description: International trade agreements impact state tax, regulatory, procurement, and economic development policies. States and local governments may be sued for violations of trade agreements. There is no effective mechanism for consultation between state and federal policy makers regarding international trade agreements and their potential for negative impacts at the state level. The committee will examine with the state's Trade Representative and federal officials the options for creating such a mechanism. Legislation will be drafted as needed.

Project: Trade Corps Fellowships

Completion: December 2005

Staff: Jack Brummel

Description: Washington's overseas trade offices provide in-country trade assistance as well as responding to investment and tourism inquiries from overseas companies and individuals interested in learning about Washington. The offices identify contacts and customers, develop market and business intelligence, and facilitate meetings for visiting client companies, dignitaries and state officials. Placing graduate students in the overseas offices could expand the work of the offices at minimal cost. The committee will examine existing fellowship programs and work with appropriate graduate schools and the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development to develop program options. Legislation will be drafted as needed.

Project: Brownfields Development

Completion: December 2005

Staff: Jack Brummel

Reference: SB 6046

Description: Brownfields are typically abandoned commercial and industrial properties that contain some contamination that may affect their future productive use. Liability concerns and insufficient financial incentives have presented obstacles to large-scale Brownfield cleanup and redevelopment activity in Washington. Legislation was introduced this past session addressing these obstacles to Brownfield development. The committee will consult with economic development officials and staff from the Department of Ecology and the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development on revising the legislation.

Project: Fee for Service

Completion: December 2005

Staff: Jack Brummel

Description: In order to extend its services and programs, the Department of Community Trade and Economic Development is allowed to charge fees for services in international trade, economic development, and other service delivery areas. User fees are intended to efficiently allocate resources and provide accountability in the delivery of services; users get what they are prepared to pay for and service levels are adjusted to reflect the resulting revenues in a self-correcting process. The department charges fees for some training it does, but has not established a fee structure for most of the services it provides. The committee will explore the relevant literature on user fees and develop legislative options to assist in the creation of a fee structure for services. Legislation will be drafted as needed.

Senate Judiciary Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Project: Judicial Discretion in Sentencing

Completion Ongoing

Staff: Aldo Melchiori

Description: Concerns exist that judicial discretion has been severely limited by the Sentencing Reform Act, along with the amendments that have occurred since its adoption. In addition, recent appellate court decisions may have the effect of further eroding the ability of the judiciary to impose fair and just sentences. At the direction of the legislature, the Sentencing Guidelines Commission is embarking on a study of judicial discretion in felony sentencing. Staff will monitor the activities of the Sentencing Guidelines Commission efforts.

Project: Projectile Stun Guns

Completion December 31, 2005

Staff: Aldo Melchiori

Reference: SHB 1934

Description: Substitute House Bill 1934 created the Projectile Stun Gun Study Committee to review the sale and use of projectile stun guns within Washington state. The committee will evaluate public safety issues created by projectile stun guns and make recommendations regarding whether they should be regulated and, if so, how. Staff support is provided by Senate Committee Services and the Office of Program Research.

Project: Study of Evidence Rules Regarding Spousal Privilege and Competency to Testify

Completion December 2005

Staff: Aldo Melchiori

Reference: SB 5133

Description: In 2005, the Senate considered Senate Bill 5133, a proposal to change Washington statutory evidence rules for spousal privilege and when a spouse is competent to testify at trial. Questions were raised regarding the federal rules and those of other states; the applicability of federal and state constitutional provisions, and how the new rule would actually work in court. Staff will survey the federal and state rules along with applicable court decisions and draft a report summarizing the state of spousal privilege and competency among the states.

Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Project: Collective Bargaining by Child Care Providers

Completion October 2005

Staff: Alison Mendiola

Description: Child care providers in several states have been given the authority to collectively bargain vendor rates for subsidized child care slots with the state. This authority has been granted by statute and also by Governor's Executive Order. Staff is to research the legal authority relating to a potential Washington State policy authorizing such collective bargaining negotiations.

Project: Gambling Overview

Completion December 2005

Staff: John Dziedzic

Description: Staff to review the various statutes and initiatives on gambling to determine to what extent these statutes and initiatives, or other forces, have resulted in the current gambling situation in this state. Staff also to review the current statutory definition of gambling to determine whether it should be changed as a way to prevent an increase in gambling.

Project: Review of Collective Bargaining Statutes

Completion December 2005

Staff: Jennifer Strus/Alison Mendiola

Description: The Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) is charged with administering nine collective bargaining statutes, each of which differs from the other. These differences make it difficult for PERC to ensure that it is properly administering the statutes each time. Committee staff will undertake a review of each of these statutes and make recommendations regarding potential changes to ease the administration of these statutes.

Project: Workers' Compensation and Self-Insurers

Completion December 2005

Staff: Jennifer Strus

Reference: SB 5789

Description: For the past two legislative sessions, legislation to remove some of the Department of Labor and Industries' oversight over workers' compensation claims covered by self-insurers has been introduced and failed to pass the legislature. Portions of the legislation seem to have merit. Staff and interested members will meet with business, labor and the self-insurers during the interim to see whether a resolution can be reached.

Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Other Projects:

Project: **Joint Select Task Force on Unemployment Insurance Benefit Equity**

Completion: January 1, 2006

Staff: Jennifer Strus

Reference: EHB 2255

Description: In 2005, the legislature established the Joint Legislative Task Force on Unemployment Insurance Benefit Equity to review the following portions of the unemployment insurance system: 1) whether the benefit structure is equitable; 2) whether the structure fairly accounts for changes in workforce and industry work patterns including seasonality, and claimant work patterns; 3) whether the tax structure equitably distributes taxes; and 4) whether the trust fund is adequate in the long term.

The task force will meet numerous times throughout the interim to achieve its review. The task force will make recommendations to the legislature by December 2005.

Project: **Joint Task Force on State Contracts Performed, in Whole or in Part, Outside the United States**

Completion: December 2005

Staff: Alison Mendiola/John Dziedzic

Reference: SCR 8407

Description: A joint legislative task force is created to study the performance of state contracts outside the United States. The eight-member joint task force consists of two legislators from each caucus of the Senate and House of Representatives.

The study is to evaluate the following: 1) the extent to which the performance of state contracts outside the United States results in the creation or loss of family-wage or other jobs; 2) the degree to which the performance of contracts inside and outside the U.S. helps Washington's economy and its companies remain competitive globally; 3) the extent to which the performance of state agency contracts in whole or in part outside the United States creates a need for adjustment assistance and retraining programs to ensure the Washington's business climate, its employers, and its workers remain competitive globally; 4) the extent to which state contracts performed at locations outside the U.S. involve personal information; 5) subject to available funding, the economic benefit of awarding state contracts to Washington companies; 6) the applicability of international trade agreements and federal law to state procurement policies; and 7) the extent to which legislative authority over state procurement is adequately protected.

Senate Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Project: **Forest Future and the Role of the State Trust Lands**
Completion January 2006 **Staff:** Vic Moon/Curt Gavigan
Reference: SB 5537, SB 5555, SB 5816, SB 5817, SB 5830
Description: A continuing review of the uses, benefits and legal requirements for both public and private forest lands will be conducted in conjunction with a subcommittee to be created. The subcommittee may hold meetings and develop legislative proposals for the full committee's consideration in the 2006 session.

Project: **Reviewing Agency Appeals Processes**
Completion November 2005 **Staff:** Curt Gavigan
Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) each play a significant regulatory role regarding the use of and activities affecting Washington's natural resources, including licensing hunting and fishing activities, regulating hydraulic projects, and regulating forest practices. Appeals from agency decisions are generally controlled by the Administrative Procedures Act (APA), Title 34 RCW. However, more specific legislation controls appeals from DFW and DNR decisions in a variety of contexts. The committee will research and analyze the APA, agency specific statutes and rules, and agency policies that control the various processes for appealing decisions from DFW and DNR.

Project: **Role of the Governor's Salmon Office**
Completion December 2005 **Staff:** Vic Moon/Curt Gavigan
Reference: SB 5610
Description: Senate Bill 5610, which passed during the 2005 session, extended the existence of the Salmon Recovery Office, within the Office of the Governor, from June 30, 2006, to June 30, 2007. This legislation also emphasized consistency between state salmon recovery planning and regional and watershed planning. In light of the scheduled expiration of the Salmon Recovery Office in 2007, the committee will consult with stakeholders and explore the past, present, and potential future role of the Salmon Recovery Office in Washington's salmon recovery effort.

Project: **Surface Mining and the Growth Management Act**
Completion January 2006 **Staff:** Vic Moon
Description: Access to sand and gravel is necessary for cement and asphalt production. Increasing costs for sand and gravel and their use in construction should be reviewed to insure that the current law on surface mining and on valuable mineral lands under the Growth Management Act will allow for future needs.

Senate Transportation Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Project: Passenger Only Ferry Study

Completion: November 31, 2005

Staff: Janice Baumgardt

Reference: ESSB 6091, Sec. 205(3)

Description: The Joint Transportation Committee is to convene a task force to study and report to the legislature on passenger-only ferry service issues including the long-term viability of different service providers, cost to ferry passengers, the state subsidies required by each provider, and the availability of federal funding for the different service providers. The chair and ranking member of the Senate Transportation Committee are members of the task force and committee staff will provide support. It is anticipated that the results of the study will guide both operating and capital budget decisions.

Project: Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Depreciation Schedule

Completion: January 1, 2006

Staff: David Ward

Reference: ESSB 6091, Sec. 205(2)

Description: The Joint Transportation Committee will convene a study to develop an MVET depreciation schedule that more accurately reflects vehicle value but does not hinder outstanding contractual obligations. The study may form the basis for legislation for a statewide uniform motor vehicle excise tax (MVET) depreciation schedule. Senate Transportation Committee staff will participate as technical support staff.

Project: Long-term Viability of Transportation Financing Methods and Sources

Completion: November 1, 2006

Staff: David Ward

Reference: ESSB 6091, Sec. 205(4)

Description: The Joint Transportation Committee has been given the task of conducting a contracted study of transportation finances. Senate Transportation Committee staff will assist in the screening and direction of the contractor and provide technical assistance.

Project: Transportation Governance Study

Completion: December 15, 2005

Staff: Kelly Simpson

Reference: ESSB 6091, Sec. 205(1) vetoed

Description: The Joint Transportation Committee was given the task to conduct a review of state level governance of transportation, with a focus on the appropriate roles of the separate branches of government. The study was to review the statutory duties, roles, and functions of the Transportation Commission and the Department. Although the study was vetoed by the Governor, it is the Governor's intent to include the chair and ranking members of the Legislative Transportation Committees in a review of statutory roles and duties of transportation agencies, including transportation innovative partnerships.

Senate Transportation Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Project: Project Delivery Oversight

Completion: Ongoing

Staff: Hayley Gamble/Janice
Baumgardt/Kim Johnson

Reference: ESSB 6091, Sec 206(2) and Sections 305 to 310

Description: The 2003 Nickel funding package and the 2005 Transportation Partnership funding package both established project specific lists for the expenditure of the new funds. The Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is instructed to provide quarterly project reviews to the Legislature providing the status on each project in the project lists. WSDOT must work with the transportation committees of the Legislature to agree on report formatting and elements including project scope, schedule, and costs. Committee staff will work with WSDOT to develop the reporting mechanism and will monitor project implementation. In addition, the Transportation Performance Audit Board is instructed to develop performance measures and benchmarks for the evaluation of WSDOT's progress in implementing the Nickel and Partnership programs. Committee staff will coordinate with the Audit Board in developing an integrated system of monitoring and evaluation.

Project: Regional Transportation Funding

Completion: December 15, 2005

Staff: Kelly Simpson

Reference: E2SSB 6140 (2002) and SHB 2033 (2003)

Description: The Regional Transportation Investment District was authorized in 2002 and has been in the formulation stage for several years. A number of modifications to the authorizing legislation have been proposed in each session since the enabling statutes were enacted. Although a date has not been determined, there will be regional meeting convened to bring together the major actors in the regional discussion in an attempt to develop a consensus approach to further legislative changes. Committee staff will assist in convening the meeting and providing policy support.

Project: Federal Driver's License Regulations

Completion: December 1, 2005

Staff: Janice Baumgardt/Kim Johnson

Reference: ESSB 6091, Sec. 213(3)

Description: Congress has passed legislation intended to standardize the information on driver's licenses and to provide a secure form of identity. States will also be required to join in a national clearing house for shared identity information. Committee staff will work with the Department of Licensing and other state and federal agencies to prepare necessary changes to state statutes and develop impact analysis of costs in anticipation of the 2006 supplemental budget.

Project: Multimodal Concurrency Study

Completion: December 31st, 2006

Staff: Kelly Simpson/Kim Johnson

Reference: 2SHB 1565

Description: WSDOT study of the relationship between Growth Management Concurrency requirements and multimodal transportation improvements and options under Chapter 36.70A RCW. Two Senate members and two House members will review and approve the scope of the study. Staff from the House and Senate Transportation Committees will provide support to the members and monitor the study.

Senate Water, Energy & Environment Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Project: **Marine Water Quality in Puget Sound and Hood Canal**

Completion: December 2005 **Staff:** Sam Thompson/Richard Rodger

Reference: SB 5431, SSB 5895, ESSB 1452

Description: Staff will conduct research, follow implementation of recent legislation and budget provisos, and draft legislation as requested regarding a variety of topics relating to the protection of water quality in the marine waters of Puget Sound and Hood Canal. These activities will include: (1) projects funded in 05-07 budgets (e.g., survey existing on-site sewage systems [OSS], replacing failing OSS, addressing dissolved oxygen levels); (2) prepare and review proposed legislation regulating on-site sewage systems in marine recovery areas; (3) review and revise legislation improving administration of Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team; and (4) review federal laws and regulations relating to shellfish and the discharge of blackwater and graywater by commercial passenger vessels.

Project: **Oil Spill Prevention**

Completion: December 2005 **Staff:** Rodger, Richard

Reference: ESSB 5432 (2005), SSB 6641 (2004)

Description: In 2005, an Oil Spill Advisory Council was created in the Office of the Governor to maintain the state's vigilance in the prevention of oil spills. The council must make proposals for the long-term funding of the council's activities and for the long-term sustainable funding for oil spill preparedness, prevention, and response activities. Additionally, the Department of Ecology (DOE) must evaluate all oil spill advisory committees and revise or eliminate functions which are no longer necessary.

At the direction of the legislature, DOE is developing rules regarding the need for the deployment of booms when petroleum products are transferred on or over marine waters. The rules may also require additional alternative oil prevention methods related to these transfers. DOE must also describe the current federal and state spill prevention and response requirements and recommendations for any new authorities necessary to establish a protective regulatory system for fueling ships.

Staff will follow the implementation of the recently enacted laws regarding oil spill prevention, review recommendations as they come forth, and draft follow up legislation as directed.

Senate Water, Energy & Environment Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Project: Creation of Aquatic Reserves

Completion: December 2005

Staff: Rodger, Richard

Reference: SB 6068

Description: The Aquatic Reserve Program was created administratively at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to promote preservation, restoration, and enhancement of state-owned aquatic lands that provide direct and indirect benefits to the health of native aquatic habitat and species and other resources in the state of Washington. The program enables DNR to establish aquatic reserves on selected state-owned aquatic lands throughout the state to protect important native aquatic ecosystems. These aquatic lands are of special educational or scientific interest, or lands of special environmental importance that are threatened by degradation.

In 2003, the Commissioner of Public Lands determined that four sites should be further evaluated for aquatic reserve status: Maury Island, Cherry Point, Cypress Island, and Fidalgo Bay. The Maury Island site was designated an official reserve in 2004; however, the Commissioner has elected to undertake a one year review of the potential economic considerations of this designation.

Committee staff will analyze the benefits of creating the aquatic reserve system through a statutory framework versus agency administrative rules.

Project: Regulatory Parity for Telecommunications Companies

Completion: December 2005

Staff: Bridges, William

Description: The telecommunications market is rapidly changing. Wireless and internet telephone technologies may soon displace traditional telephone lines, and the distinction between local and long distance calls is blurring. Some telecommunications companies are questioning the continued relevance of regulations that were adopted for a monopoly environment. These companies are seeking regulatory parity for all telecommunications companies. They are particularly interested in parity in the application of various reporting requirements to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC).

Committee staff will plan a work session in September 2005 providing an overview of the WUTC's regulatory structure for telecommunications companies. The work session will also focus on the issue of regulatory parity among telecommunications companies. Committee staff may prepare bills addressing issues raised in the work session.

Senate Water, Energy & Environment Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Project: **Promoting Alternative Energy Sources by Investor-Owned Utilities**

Completion: December 2005

Staff: William Bridges/Sam Thompson

Description: Under current law, investor-owned utility rates must be just, fair, reasonable, and sufficient. In 1980, the legislature permitted electric and gas companies to earn higher rates of return on investments that improved energy efficiency, including investments in facilities which produced energy from renewable resources. This "bonus rate of return" applied to projects that were constructed or installed after June 12, 1980, and before January 1, 1990.

A work session will be planned for September 2005 providing an overview of the regulatory structure for investor-owned gas and electric companies, including a report on the bonus-rate-of-return program. The work session will also focus on the commission's current efforts to promote energy conservation and efficiency through alternative pricing models. Committee staff may prepare bills addressing issues raised in the work session.

Other Projects:

Project: **Joint Committee on Energy Supply and Conservation**

Completion: December 2005

Staff: William Bridges/Richard Rodger

Description: The Joint Legislative Committee on Energy Supply and Conservation will meet during the interim to take reports from state and federal agencies regarding the current status of the state's energy supply, and to receive updates from the Department of General Administration regarding aggregated cost-effective energy conservation measures undertaken by municipalities as required by Substitute House Bill 1895 (2005).

Project: **Task Force to Study Off-Road Vehicle Noise Management**

Completion: December 2005

Staff: Richard Rodger/Curt Gavigan

Reference: SB 5089

Description: The task force on off-road vehicle noise management will review the issues regarding noise from off-road vehicles, and the availability of lands where off-road vehicles can be operated. The task force reports its findings and recommendations to the legislature by December 1, 2005.

Project: **Joint Legislative Committee on Water Supply During Drought**

Completion: December 2005

Staff: Richard Rodger/Margaret King

Reference: HB 2166

Description: The Joint Legislative Committee on Water Supply During Drought will meet during the interim to evaluate the impact of the current drought conditions. The committee requests and reviews information relating to water supply conditions in the state and the economic, environmental, and other impacts relating to decreased water supply. The committee may make recommendations on necessary budgetary and policy actions to improve the state's drought response programs.

Senate Water, Energy & Environment Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Project: **Columbia River Task Force**

Completion: December 2005

Staff: Richard Rodger/Margaret King

Description: The Governor initiated the joint executive-legislative task force in May 2005 to evaluate policy options for a new water management program in the Columbia River. The purpose of the group is to develop a better understanding of the policy alternatives facing the state, and to seek a proposal for the 2006 Legislative session that secures the benefits of water management for the citizens of the state.

The task force members will interact with federal policy makers, tribal governments, irrigation districts, local governments, fish recovery interests, and other water use stakeholders to consider the scientific and legal constraints on state water resource decisions relating to the Columbia River. The members will also schedule public workshops across the state, followed by a possible series of negotiations sessions amongst the task force members.

Senate Ways & Means Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Project: 2006 Citizen's Guide to the Budget

Completion: December 2005

Staff: Ways and Means staff

Description: For the last several years, the Senate Ways and Means Committee and Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program (LEAP) staff have published a Citizen's Guide to the Budget. Members, legislative staff, and the general public use the guide to answer basic questions about the Washington State biennial budget. The Guide is published on an annual basis because of significant changes in supplemental budget sessions. The Guide will be updated before the 2006 legislative session.

Project: Analyze 2006 Supplemental Operating and Capital Budget Requests

Completion: December 2005

Staff: Ways and Means staff

Description: In the fall, state agencies will submit to the Office of Financial Management supplemental budget requests for the current biennium. State law provides that a copy of each agency budget be provided concurrently to the legislative fiscal committees. These requests will provide valuable information in developing the Senate's version of the supplemental operating and capital budgets.

Project: Legislative Budget Notes

Completion: September 2005

Staff: Ways and Means staff

Description: Legislative fiscal staff in the Senate and House will work with LEAP staff to prepare the "Legislative Budget Notes," a publication which represents the official record of legislative action on the omnibus operating, transportation, and capital budgets. The Legislative Budget Notes are used by legislators, legislative staff, state agencies and the general public to determine the legislative intent behind the hundreds of policy changes embedded in the three major budget documents.

Project: Managing Medical Cost Increases

Completion: December 2005

Staff: Mike Wills/Erik Sund/Tim Yowell

Description: Committee staff will organize several work sessions for interested members to examine options for addressing the challenge to the state budget of continued medical cost escalation. Topics are likely to include the growth in low-income medical assistance and public employee health benefit costs relative to other areas of the state budget; key factors driving medical cost increases for state government and other purchasers; approaches implemented over the past several years to reduce the growth in state medical costs; and innovative new approaches under development as part of the Governor's health care initiative.

Project: Update of Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance

Completion: December 2005

Staff: Ways and Means staff

Description: Staff will update the Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance. This document serves as a resource for members, legislative staff, and the general public. The document focuses on frequently asked questions regarding K-12 finance. This project will be completed in conjunction with staff from the Early Childhood, K-12 & Higher Education Committee.

Senate Ways & Means Committee Workplan Summary - Interim 2005

Project: Wildfire Cost Study

Completion: December 2005

Staff: Brian Sims

Description: A final report on the cost of wildfire suppression is due June 30, 2005 from Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC). Ways and Means staff will monitor implementation of recommendations from the study and will develop alternatives for cost controls based on study findings. These alternatives will be used to review the 2006 supplemental budget request and the 2007-09 biennial budget development for wildfire suppression.

Other Projects:

Project: Joint Select Committee on Public Health Financing

Completion: June 2006

Staff: Tim Yowell/Dean Carlson

Reference: HCR 4410

Description: In coordination with staff from the health care and fiscal committees in the House and Senate, Ways and Means staff will support the work of the Joint Select Committee on Public Health Financing established by House Concurrent Resolution 4410. The Joint Select Committee is charged with recommending potential sources of future funding for public health services by July 1, 2006. Specific activities for the 2005 interim will be defined after review and adoption of a project work plan by the Joint Select Committee, but are likely to include an analysis of public health expenditure patterns and revenue sources by county, and how those have changed over the past decade; an assessment of the extent to which current funding is adequate to address critical public health functions; and a review of how public health funding levels and revenue sources in Washington compare with other states.

Project: Washington Learns Committee

Completion: November 2006

Staff: Bryon Moore/Richard Ramsey

Reference: E2SSB 5441

Description: A Comprehensive Education Finance Study Steering Committee, includes four legislators – one from each chamber of the Senate and House; three advisory committees, each one including four individuals appointed by the caucuses in the Senate and House, to study the finance of early learning, K-12, and higher education in the state. Committee staff will provide policy support to the study. The steering committee will report to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the legislature by November 15, 2005, and June 16, 2006, with the final report due by November 15, 2006. This project will be completed in conjunction with staff members of the Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education Committee.
